



**Statement by Peter Davidson, Vice President of Global Government Affairs & Policy,
Intelsat**

**before the United States House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**

**Legislative Hearing: “Liftoff: Unleashing Innovation in Satellite Communications
Technologies.”**

February 8th, 2023

Executive Summary

- Intelsat has a rich history in the space and satellite industry beginning with President John F. Kennedy signing legislation, Communications Satellite Act, in 1962 creating Intelsat, up to our groundbreaking satellite life extension projects in 2020. Our DNA from the very beginning has been based upon the combination of collaboration and technological innovation to serve humankind. We have been good stewards of the space ecosystem for over half a decade and want to help preserve the space environment for generations to come.
- Intelsat believes it is important to ensure that legislation and regulation encourage competition, investment, and innovation. We are committed to the health and prosperity of all orbits and support the proper legal and regulatory frameworks to achieve this goal.
- We support the goals in the Satellite and Telecommunications Streamlining Act to eliminate the processing round system, expedite the FCC application process, set clear guidelines for technical compatibility among the various satellite systems, and address space sustainability.
- Intelsat also supports the goals of the LAUNCHES Act to further streamline the application process by eliminating unnecessary barriers to obtain spectrum licenses required to launch rockets from the U.S.
- The ALERT Parity Act requires the FCC to establish rules that enable the provision of emergency connectivity service in remote areas. Everyone deserves to have access to emergency services no matter where they live, and this legislation moves us closer to this goal.
- We also support the goal of the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act to provide connectivity to hard-to-reach rural areas. Much of the agricultural production in the U.S. takes place in very rural areas, some of which do not have access to terrestrial service. This bill, along with the upcoming farm bill can significantly advance this important initiative.
- The Secure Space Act is yet another example of how important satellite supply chain sustainability is, especially during these uncertain times. The intense global competition in space means protecting and promoting U.S. satellite operations. This will serve as an important foundation for continuing and accelerating innovation in our industry.
- In conclusion, we would like to reiterate four points:
 1. Continued access to spectrum, with regulatory certainty, is the cornerstone for a vibrant U.S. space economy.
 2. Space sustainability is fundamental to ensuring the continued growth in the space economy. A responsible and measured approach is key to ensuring that space remains viable for all orbits, LEO, MEO and GEO.
 3. Maximizing the efficient use of spectrum and space can only be achieved through a regulatory framework that requires transparency and information sharing among industry operators.
 4. Satellites are an excellent solution for broadband connectivity and disaster preparedness in hard-to-serve areas, including agricultural areas.